

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element; and
a control means for controlling the frequency of a sweep-out of unnecessary charge by the sweep-out means.

2. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element;
an operating condition judging means for judging operating condition of the imaging apparatus; and
a control means for controlling a frequency of the sweep-out of unnecessary charge by the sweep-out means on the basis of the output of the operating condition judging means.

3. The imaging apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:

the operating condition judging means judges at least one of consumed current, whether or not a mechanically driven part is being operated, the supply voltage level, the ambient temperature, whether or not the lens stop means is operative, whether or not the strobo means is being charged, and whether or not access operation of recording means is being performed.

4. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element;
an operating condition judging means for judging consumed current of the imaging apparatus; and

a control means for controlling a frequency of the sweep-out of unnecessary charge by the sweep-out means on the basis of the output of the operating condition judging means such that the consumed current will not exceed a predetermined value.

5. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element;
an operating condition judging means for judging whether or not a mechanically driven part is being operated; and

a control means for setting a lower sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means when a mechanically driven part is being operated than a mechanically driven part is not being operated.

6. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element;
an operating condition judging means for judging the supply voltage level; and
a control means for setting a lower sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means when the supply voltage level is lower than a predetermined voltage.

7. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element;
an operating condition judging means for judging the ambient temperature; and
a control means for controlling the sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means on the basis of the result of judgment of the ambient temperature by the operating condition judging mean such as to reduce the sweep-out frequency when the ambient temperature is lower than a predetermined temperature.

8. The imaging apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the operating condition judging means for judging the ambient temperature is provided around the lens stop means or the power supply.

9. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

a lens stop means for stopping a light flux incident on the imaging element;
a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element; and
a control means for controlling the sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means such as to provide a lower sweep-out frequency when the lens stop means is operative than when the lens stop means is inoperative.

10. The imaging apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:
the control means reduces the sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means when the lens stop means is operative so that the consumed current at this time is less than the maximum consumed current when the lens stop means is inoperative.

11. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

- a strobo means for illuminating the scene;
- incident on the imaging element;
- a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element; and
- a control means for setting a lower sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means when the strobo means is being charged than when the strobo means is not being charged.

12. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

- a recording means for writing image data from the imaging element;
- a control means for setting a lower sweep-out frequency of the sweep-out means during an access operation of the recording means to write image data than during a non-access operation of the recording means.

13. An imaging apparatus having an imaging element for accumulating signal charge corresponding to an incident scene light flux in a photo-electric converting element section comprising:

- a sweep-out means for sweeping out unnecessary charge in the imaging element;
- an operating condition judging means for judging predetermined plurality of operating conditions of the imaging apparatus; and
- a control means for selecting a frequency of the sweep-out of unnecessary charge by the sweep-out means among a plurality of predetermined frequencies on the basis of the judged operating conditions.

14. The imaging apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of frequencies is set on the basis of number of the judged operating conditions.